

***Summary of the Official Action***

In the instant Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 21, 31 and 45 as indefinite. The Examiner also rejected claims 1-52 over the art of record. By the present amendment and remarks, Applicants submit that the rejections have been overcome, and respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application.

***Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is moot***

Claims 21, 31 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

By this amendment, Applicants have amended these claims to even more clearly recite the features of the invention. Thus, it is believed that each issue indicated by the Examiner has been addressed. Accordingly, the rejection has been rendered moot and the Examiner is requested to withdraw the indefiniteness rejection.

***Traversal of Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)***

Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 9, 17, 19, 22, 25, 27, 29, 31, 32, 41, 43 and 46-52 were rejected as being anticipated by US patent 5,043,046 to LAAPOTTI.

Claims 1, 3-7, 17, 19, 21-25, 27-31, 41, 43 and 45-52 were rejected as being

anticipated by US patent 5,439,559 to CROUSE.

Claims 1-7, 10, 17, 19, 22-29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 41, 43 and 46-52 were rejected as being anticipated by US patent 6,083,349 to SCHIEL.

The Examiner asserted that LAAPOTTI discloses all of the features of the above-noted claims including, among other things, a steam overpressure box 55 and a suction box 65 arranged before an extended nip press. Reconsideration of the above-noted rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner also asserted that CROUSE discloses all of the features of the above-noted claims including, among other things, a suction apparatus as shown in Fig. 4 and a suction box 132 with overpressure steam and a suction roll 134 following it. Reconsideration of the above-noted rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner further asserted that SCHIEL discloses all of the features of the above-noted claims including, among other things, a steam hood 13 over a suction apparatus 16, 17 and/or a suction roll. Reconsideration of the above-noted rejection is respectfully requested.

As a preliminary matter, by this amendment and in order to advance prosecution, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 25, 49 and 52 to recite features which are not disclosed or suggested by any of these documents. Accordingly, these claims are believed to be allowable at least for this reason.

Specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that each of these documents fails to

P20845.A04

disclose, or even suggest, inter alia, that the at least one suctioned apparatus comprises a suction roll and wherein the hood at least partially surrounds the suction roll, as recited in claims 1 and 25, and inter alia, that the at least one suctioned apparatus comprises a suction roll and wherein the overpressure device comprises a hood subjected to an overpressure, the hood being arranged to surround at least a portion of the suction roll, as recited in claims 49 and 52.

With regard to LAAPOTTI, Applicants note that ref. No. 55 cannot properly be characterized as a hood. Nor does the heating device 55 support an underpressure effect in suction device 65. It is also clear that this document does not disclose, or even suggest, an at least one suctioned apparatus which comprises *a suction roll* in combination with *the hood at least partially surrounding the suction roll*.

With regard to CROUSE, Applicants note that ref. No. 122 cannot properly be characterized as a hood. Nor does the steam shower 122 surround any part of vacuum device 132. Clearly, this document does not disclose, or even suggest, an at least one suctioned apparatus which comprises *a suction roll* in combination with *the hood at least partially surrounding the suction roll*.

With regard to SCHIEL, Applicants note that ref. No. 13 appears to resemble a hood and that it is arranged next to a suction device 16. However, it is clear that this document does not disclose, or even suggest, at least one suctioned apparatus arranged *before said at*

*least one shoe press* relative to the web travel direction, wherein the at least one suctioned apparatus comprises *a suction roll* in combination with *the hood at least partially surrounding the suction roll*.

Applicants note that, for an anticipation rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 to be proper, each element of the claim in question must be disclosed in a single document, and if the document relied upon does not do so, then the rejection must be withdrawn.

Because each of these documents fail to disclose at least the above mentioned features as recited in at least amended independent claims 1, 25, 49 and 52, Applicants submit that each of these documents does not disclose all the claimed features recited in at least amended independent claims 1, 25, 49 and 52.

Further, the rejections of claims 4, 28 and 50 are rendered moot in as much as these claims have been canceled. Moreover, Applicants submit that the above-noted dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason that these claims depend from an allowable base claim and because these claims recite additional features that further define the present invention. In particular, Applicants submit that no proper reading of anyone of LAAPOTTI, CROUSE or SCHIEL discloses or even suggests: that the fibrous material web comprises a tissue or hygiene paper web as recited in claim 2; that as said carrying belt guides the fibrous material web over said at least one suctioned apparatus, said carrying belt is arranged between the fibrous material web and said at least one suctioned apparatus as recited in claim

P20845.A04

3; that said hood contains an overpressure fluid comprising at least one of overheated steam, dry air and moist hot air as recited in claim 5; that the machine further comprises a suction element positioned between said at least one suctioned apparatus and said at least one shoe press as recited in claim 6; that said suction element comprises a suction box as recited in claim 7; that said at least one shoe press unit comprises a plurality of pressing zones arranged crosswise to the web travel direction as recited in claim 8; that said plurality of pressing zones are controllable independently of one another as recited in claim 9; that said carrying belt comprises a felt belt as recited in claim 17; that said carrying belt comprises a dewatering belt as recited in claim 19; that the machine further comprises a continuous felt belt which is arranged between said carrying belt and said shoe press unit and which is guided through said elongated pressing nip along with the fibrous material web and said carrying belt as recited in claim 21; that said shoe press unit comprises a water-impermeable continuous, circulating press belt as recited in claim 22; that said shoe press unit comprises a shoe press roll with a pressing jacket as recited in claim 23; that said pressing jacket comprises a water-impermeable pressing jacket as recited in claim 24; that as the carrying belt guides the fibrous material web over the at least one suctioned apparatus, the carrying belt is positioned between the at least one suctioned apparatus and the fibrous material web as recited in claim 27; that the overpressure in the hood is created by an overpressure fluid comprising at least one of overheated steam and dry and/or moist hot air as recited in claim 29; that the apparatus

P20845.A04

further includes a suction element positioned between the at least one suctioned apparatus and the at least one shoe press, and process further comprises suctioning the carrying belt and fibrous material web guided over the suction element as recited in claim 30; that said suction element comprises a suction box as recited in claim 31; that the shoe press unit comprises a plurality of pressing zones arranged at least crosswise to the web travel direction, and the process further comprises independently controlling the plurality of pressing zones as recited in claim 32; that said carrying belt comprises a felt belt as recited in claim 41; that said carrying belt comprises a dewatering belt as recited in claim 43; that the apparatus includes a continuous felt belt arranged between the carrying belt and the shoe press unit in the elongated pressing nip, and the process further includes guiding the fibrous material web through the elongated pressing nip along with the carrying belt and the continuous felt belt as recited in claim 45; that the shoe press unit comprises a water-impermeable pressing belt as recited in claim 46; that the shoe press unit comprises a pressing jacket as recited in claim 47; that the pressing jacket comprises a water-impermeable pressing jacket as recited in claim 48; and that said overpressure device comprises an overpressure fluid comprising at least one of overheated steam, dry air and moist hot air as recited in claim 51.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the above-noted rejections and further request that the above noted claims be indicated as being allowable.

*Traversal of Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)*

Applicants traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-52 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US patent 6,235,160 to TIETZ et al. and/or EP 0 926 296 to TIETZ et al. in view of US patent 1,025,822 to MILLSPAUGH as necessary with SCHIEL and/or US patent 6,231,723 to KANITZ et al.

Applicants also traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 13-20 and 37-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US patent 6,235,160 to TIETZ et al. and/or EP 0 926 296 to TIETZ et al. in view of US patent 1,025,822 to MILLSPAUGH as necessary with SCHIEL and/or US patent 6,231,723 to KANITZ et al. and further in view of US patent 4,102,737 to MORTON and/or US patent 3,224,928 to LEE et al.

Applicants additionally traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 8, 9 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US patent 6,235,160 to TIETZ et al. and/or EP 0 926 296 to TIETZ et al. in view of US patent 1,025,822 to MILLSPAUGH as necessary with SCHIEL and/or US patent 6,231,723 to KANITZ et al. and further as needed in view of US patent 4,563,245 to WANKE et al. and/or US patent 4,556,454 to DAHL et al. and/or LAAPOTTI.

Applicants further traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 21 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US patent 6,235,160 to TIETZ et al. and/or EP 0 926 296 to TIETZ et al. in view of US patent 1,025,822 to MILLSPAUGH as necessary

P20845.A04

with SCHIEL and/or US patent 6,231,723 to KANITZ et al. and further in view of CROUSE and/or US patent 5,709,778 to KADE et al.

The Examiner asserted that each of the TIETZ documents disclose all the claimed features except for using hot air or steam overpressure being applied over a suction roll. However, the Examiner asserted that MILLSPAUGH teaches this feature. Accordingly, the Examiner concluded that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine MILLSPAUGH and SCHIEL, as necessary, with TIETZ in order to render the above-noted claims unpatentable.

The Examiner also asserted that each of the TIETZ documents, MILLSPAUGH and SCHIEL discloses all the claimed features except for a second felt belt, a Yankee cylinder and a tissue web. However, the Examiner asserted that each of MORTON and LEE teaches these features. Accordingly, the Examiner concluded that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine MORTON or LEE with MILLSPAUGH, SCHIEL and TIETZ in order to render the above-noted claims unpatentable.

The Examiner further asserted that each of the TIETZ documents, MILLSPAUGH and SCHIEL discloses all the claimed features except for pressing zones in an extended nip. However, the Examiner asserted that each of WANKE, DAHL and LAAPOTTI teaches this feature. Accordingly, the Examiner concluded that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine WANKE, DAHL and/or LAAPOTTI with



MILLSPAUGH, SCHIEL and TIETZ in order to render the above-noted claims unpatentable.

Finally, the Examiner asserted that each of the TIETZ documents, MILLSPAUGH and SCHIEL discloses all the claimed features except for using multiple dewatering fabrics in an extended nip press. However, the Examiner asserted that each of CROUSE and/or KADE teaches this feature. Accordingly, the Examiner concluded that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine CROUSE and/or KADE with MILLSPAUGH, SCHIEL and TIETZ in order to render the above-noted claims unpatentable.

Applicants respectfully submit that no proper combination of these documents discloses or suggests, inter alia, a water-permeable continuous carrying belt arranged to guide the fibrous material web *from a forming roll over said at least one suctioned apparatus and through said elongated pressing nip* wherein the at least one suctioned apparatus comprises a suction roll and wherein *the hood at least partially surrounds the suction roll*, as recited in amended claim 1, inter alia, a process that utilizes an apparatus comprising *a carrying belt that is guided from a forming roll and then over the at least one suctioned apparatus* wherein the at least one suctioned apparatus comprises a suction roll and wherein a hood at least partially surrounds the suction roll, wherein process comprises *guiding the fibrous material web and the carrying belt through the elongated pressing nip*, as recited in amended claim 25, inter alia, a water-permeable continuous carrying belt arranged to guide the fibrous material web *from a forming roll over said at least one suctioned apparatus and through said*

*pressing nip* and an overpressure device associated with said at least one suctioned apparatus arranged to support an underpressure effect of said at least one suctioned apparatus, wherein the at least one suctioned apparatus comprises a suction roll and wherein the overpressure device comprises a hood subjected to an overpressure, *the hood being arranged to surround at least a portion of the suction roll*, as recited in amended claim 49, and inter alia, a process that utilizes an apparatus comprising an overpressure device associated with the at least one suctioned apparatus, wherein the at least one suctioned comprises a suction roll and wherein the overpressure device comprises a hood subjected to an overpressure, *the hood being arranged to surround at least a portion of the suction roll*, wherein the process comprises *guiding the fibrous material web from a forming roll and over the at least one suctioned apparatus*, as recited in amended claim 52.

As discussed above, LAAPOTTI lacks any disclosure to a hood. Nor does the heating device 55 support an underpressure effect in suction device 65. It is also clear that this document does not disclose, or even suggest, an at least one suctioned apparatus which comprises *a suction roll* in combination with *the hood at least partially surrounding the suction roll*. This document also lacks, among other things, any apparent disclosure to guiding a fibrous material web *from a forming roll over said at least one suctioned apparatus and through a pressing nip*.

With regard to CROUSE, Applicants note that ref. No. 122 cannot properly be

characterized as a hood. Nor does the steam shower 122 surround any part of vacuum device 132. Clearly, this document does not disclose, or even suggest, an at least one suctioned apparatus which comprises *a suction roll* in combination with *the hood at least partially surrounding the suction roll*. This document also lacks, among other things, any apparent disclosure to guiding a fibrous material web *from a forming roll over said at least one suctioned apparatus and through a pressing nip*.

With regard to SCHIEL, Applicants note that ref. No. 13 appears to resemble a hood and that it is arranged next to a suction device 16. However, it is clear that this document does not disclose, or even suggest, at least one suctioned apparatus arranged *before said at least one shoe press* relative to the web travel direction, wherein the at least one suctioned apparatus which comprises *a suction roll* in combination with *the hood at least partially surrounding the suction roll*. This document also lacks, among other things, any apparent disclosure to guiding a fibrous material web *from a forming roll over said at least one suctioned apparatus and through a pressing nip*.

It is also clear that the TIETZ documents lack any disclosure to at least one suctioned apparatus arranged before said at least one shoe press relative to the web travel direction, wherein the at least one suctioned apparatus which comprises a suction roll in combination with *the hood at least partially surrounding the suction roll*. These documents also lack, among other things, any apparent disclosure to guiding a fibrous material web *from a forming*

*they do not*

*roll over said at least one suctioned apparatus and through a pressing nip.* N2

Applicants acknowledge that MILLSPAUGH apparently discloses a suction device and an adjacent vacuum device. However, this document lacks, among other things, any disclosure to guiding a fibrous material web *from a forming roll over said at least one suctioned apparatus and through a pressing nip.* This document also lacks, among other things, any disclosure to guiding a fibrous material web *from a forming roll over said at least one suctioned apparatus and through a pressing nip.*

Applicants note that KANITZ apparently discloses a forming roll 24 and a press nip 108. However, KANITZ lacks any disclosure to at least one suctioned apparatus arranged before said at least one shoe press relative to the web travel direction, wherein the at least one suctioned apparatus comprises *a suction roll in combination with the hood at least partially surrounding the suction roll.* This document also lacks, among other things, any disclosure to guiding a fibrous material web *from a forming roll over said at least one suctioned apparatus and through a pressing nip.*

Applicants also acknowledge that MORTON apparently discloses a forming roll 5, a nip roll 20 and a Yankee roll 37. However, MORTON lacks any disclosure to at least one suctioned apparatus arranged before at least one shoe press relative to the web travel direction, wherein the at least one suctioned apparatus comprises *a suction roll in combination with the hood at least partially surrounding the suction roll.* This document

P20845.A04

also lacks, among other things, any disclosure to guiding a fibrous material web *from a forming roll over said at least one suctioned apparatus and through a pressing nip*.

Applicants further acknowledge that LEE apparently discloses a pressing nip 37 and a Yankee roll 41. However, LEE lacks any disclosure to at least one suctioned apparatus arranged before at least one shoe press relative to the web travel direction, wherein the at least one suctioned apparatus comprises *a suction roll in combination with the hood at least partially surrounding the suction roll*. This document also lacks, among other things, any disclosure to guiding a fibrous material web *from a forming roll over said at least one suctioned apparatus and through a pressing nip*.

Finally, Applicants acknowledge that each of DAHL, WANKE and KADE apparently disclose a pressing nip. However, each of DAHL, WANKE and KADE lack any disclosure to at least one suctioned apparatus arranged before at least one shoe press relative to the web travel direction, wherein the at least one suctioned apparatus comprises *a suction roll in combination with the hood at least partially surrounding the suction roll*. This document also lacks, among other things, any disclosure to guiding a fibrous material web *from a forming roll over said at least one suctioned apparatus and through a pressing nip*.

Thus, even if these documents were properly combined, which Applicants submit they cannot be, they would nevertheless lack features which are recited in at least amended independent claims 1, 25, 49 and 52. Moreover, each of these documents fails to disclose

or suggest the requisite motivation or rationale for combining these documents in the manner asserted by the Examiner. Finally, Applicants submit that MILLSPAUGH, KANITZ, MORTON, LEE, DAHL, WANKE, KADE, LAAPOTTI, CROUSE and SCHIEL fail to cure the deficiencies in the TIETZ documents, and vice versa.

Finally, Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the guidelines identified in M.P.E.P section 2141 which state that "[i]n determining the propriety of the Patent Office case for obviousness in the first instance, it is necessary to ascertain whether or not the reference teachings would appear to be sufficient for one of ordinary skill in the relevant art having the reference before him to make the proposed substitution, combination, or other modification." *In re Linter*, 458 F.2d 1013, 1016, 173 USPQ 560, 562 (CCPA 1972).

As this section clearly indicates, "[o]bviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992)."

Moreover, it has been legally established that "[t]he mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination. *In re Mills*, 916 F.2d 680, 16 USPQ2d 1430

(Fed. Cir. 1990) .... Although a prior art device "may be capable of being modified to run the way the apparatus is claimed, there must be a suggestion or motivation in the reference to do so." 916 F.2d at 682, 16 USPQ2d at 1432.). See also *In re Fritch*, 972 F.2d 1260, 23 USPQ2d 1780 (Fed. Cir. 1992) (flexible landscape edging device which is conformable to a ground surface of varying slope not suggested by combination of prior art references).

Additionally, it has been held that "[a] statement that modifications of the prior art to meet the claimed invention would have been " well within the ordinary skill of the art at the time the claimed invention was made" because the references relied upon teach that all aspects of the claimed invention were individually known in the art is not sufficient to establish a prima facie case of obviousness without some objective reason to combine the teachings of the references. *Ex parte Levengood*, 28 USPQ2d 1300 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1993)."

Accordingly, Applicants submit that no proper combination of the above-noted documents discloses or suggests the combination of features recited in at least independent claims 1, 25, 49 and 52, much less, claims 2, 3, 5-24, 26, 27, 29-48 and 51 which depend from claims 1, 25 and 49 and further recite: that the fibrous material web comprises a tissue or hygiene paper web as recited in claim 2; that as said carrying belt guides the fibrous material web over said at least one suctioned apparatus, said carrying belt is arranged between the fibrous material web and said at least one suctioned apparatus as recited in claim

P20845.A04

3; that said hood contains an overpressure fluid comprising at least one of overheated steam, dry air and moist hot air as recited in claim 5; that the machine further comprises a suction element positioned between said at least one suctioned apparatus and said at least one shoe press as recited in claim 6; that said suction element comprises a suction box as recited in claim 7; that said at least one shoe press unit comprises a plurality of pressing zones arranged crosswise to the web travel direction as recited in claim 8; that said plurality of pressing zones are controllable independently of one another as recited in claim 9; that said at least one drying cylinder comprises a tissue or Yankee drying cylinder, and said machine further comprises a crepe doctor arranged to remove the fibrous material web from said tissue or Yankee drying cylinder after drying as recited in claim 10; that the machine includes a forming section in which said carrying belt is arranged to accept a fibrous stock suspension from a headbox as recited in claim 11; that the machine further comprises a forming roll and a continuous outer wire, wherein said carrying belt is also guided over said forming roll as an inner belt over the forming roll in relation to said continuous outer wire as recited in claim 12; that said inner belt comprises a felt belt as recited in claim 13; that said inner belt comprises a wire belt as recited in claim 14; that said inner belt comprises a dewatering belt as recited in claim 15; that said inner belt comprises an imprinting member as recited in claim 16; that said carrying belt comprises a felt belt as recited in claim 17; that said carrying belt comprises a wire belt as recited in claim 18; that said carrying belt comprises a dewatering



P20845.A04

belt as recited in claim 19; that said carrying belt comprises an imprinting member as recited in claim 20; that the machine further comprises a continuous felt belt which is arranged between said carrying belt and said shoe press unit and which is guided through said elongated pressing nip along with the fibrous material web and said carrying belt as recited in claim 21; that said shoe press unit comprises a water-impermeable continuous, circulating press belt as recited in claim 22; that said shoe press unit comprises a shoe press roll with a pressing jacket as recited in claim 23; that said pressing jacket comprises a water-impermeable pressing jacket as recited in claim 24; that the fibrous material web comprises a tissue or hygiene paper web as recited in claim 26; that as the carrying belt guides the fibrous material web over the at least one suctioned apparatus, the carrying belt is positioned between the at least one suctioned apparatus and the fibrous material web as recited in claim 27; that the overpressure in the hood is created by an overpressure fluid comprising at least one of overheated steam and dry and/or moist hot air as recited in claim 29; that the apparatus further includes a suction element positioned between the at least one suctioned apparatus and the at least one shoe press, and process further comprises suctioning the carrying belt and fibrous material web guided over the suction element as recited in claim 30; that said suction element comprises a suction box as recited in claim 31; that the shoe press unit comprises a plurality of pressing zones arranged at least crosswise to the web travel direction, and the process further comprises independently controlling the plurality of pressing zones as recited

P20845.A04

in claim 32; that the drying cylinder comprises a tissue or Yankee drying cylinder, and the process further comprises scraping the fibrous material web from the tissue or Yankee drying cylinder after drying as recited in claim 33; that the apparatus further includes a crepe doctor and the process comprises scraping the fibrous material web from the tissue or Yankee drying cylinder after drying with the crepe doctor as recited in claim 34; that the apparatus includes a forming section and the carrying belt is guided through the forming section, and the process further comprises accepting a fibrous material suspension from a headbox on the carrying belt as recited in claim 35; that the apparatus further includes a forming roll with a continuously outer wire, and the carrying belt is guided over the forming roll as an inner wire between the continuous outer wire and the forming roll, and the process further includes supplying a fibrous material suspension between the inner wire and the outer wire as recited in claim 36; that said inner belt comprises a felt belt as recited in claim 37; that said inner belt comprises a wire belt as recited in claim 38; that said inner belt comprises a dewatering belt as recited in claim 39; that said inner belt comprises an imprinting member as recited in claim 40; that said carrying belt comprises a felt belt as recited in claim 41; that said carrying belt comprises a wire belt as recited in claim 42; that said carrying belt comprises a dewatering belt as recited in claim 43; that said carrying belt comprises an imprinting member as recited in claim 44; that the apparatus includes a continuous felt belt arranged between the carrying belt and the shoe press unit in the elongated pressing nip, and the process further includes

P20845.A04

guiding the fibrous material web through the elongated pressing nip along with the carrying belt and the continuous felt belt as recited in claim 45; that the shoe press unit comprises a water-impermeable pressing belt as recited in claim 46; that the shoe press unit comprises a pressing jacket as recited in claim 47; that the pressing jacket comprises a water-impermeable pressing jacket as recited in claim 48; and that said overpressure device comprises an overpressure fluid comprising at least one of overheated steam, dry air and moist hot air as recited in claim 51.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections of the above-noted claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and indicate that these claims are allowable.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that none of the references of record, either taken alone or in any proper combination thereof, anticipate or render obvious Applicants' invention, as recited in each of claims 1-3, 5-27, 29-49, 51 and 52. The applied references of record have been discussed and distinguished, while significant claimed features of the present invention have been pointed out.

Further, any amendments to the claims which have been made in this response and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art,

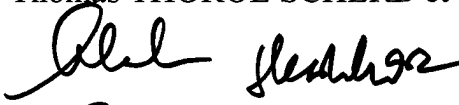
P20845.A04

should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee necessary to have this paper entered to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas THORÖE SCHERB et al.

  
Reg. No. 45, 294

Neil F. Greenblum  
Reg. No. 28,394

December 16, 2002  
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1941 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191  
(703) 716-1191

Attachment: Appendix

## APPENDIX

*Changes to claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 12, 17-22, 25, 27 30, 31, 36, 41-45, 49, 51 and 52 as follows:*

1. (Amended) A machine for producing a fibrous material web comprising:  
at least one shoe press including at least one drying cylinder and a shoe press unit which are arranged to form a pressing nip elongated in a web travel direction;  
at least one suctioned apparatus arranged before said at least one shoe press relative to the web travel direction;  
a water-permeable continuous carrying belt arranged to guide the fibrous material web from a forming roll over said at least one suctioned apparatus and through said elongated pressing nip; and  
a hood subjected to an overpressure being assigned to said at least one suctioned apparatus and being arranged to support an underpressure effect of said at least one suctioned apparatus,  
wherein the at least one suctioned apparatus comprises a suction roll and wherein the hood at least partially surrounds the suction roll.

3. (Amended) The machine in accordance with claim 1, wherein, as said carrying belt guides the fibrous material web over said at least one suctioned apparatus, said carrying belt is arranged between the fibrous material web and said at least one suctioned apparatus.

5. (Amended) The machine in accordance with claim 1, wherein said hood contains an overpressure fluid comprising at least one of overheated steam, [and] dry air [and/or] and moist hot air.

6. (Amended) The machine in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a suction element positioned between said at least one suctioned apparatus and said at least one shoe press.

10. (Amended) The machine in accordance with claim 1, wherein said at least one drying cylinder comprises a tissue or Yankee drying cylinder, and said machine further comprises a crepe doctor arranged to remove the fibrous material web from said tissue or Yankee drying cylinder after drying.

11. (Amended) The machine in accordance with claim 1, wherein the machine includes a forming section in which said carrying belt is arranged to accept a fibrous stock suspension from a headbox.

12. (Amended) The machine in accordance with claim 1, further comprising [a forming roll and] a continuous outer wire,

wherein said [carrier] carrying belt is also guided over said forming roll as an inner belt over [a] the forming roll in relation to said continuous outer wire.

17. (Amended) The machine in accordance with claim 1, wherein said [carrier] carrying belt comprises a felt belt.

18. (Amended) The machine in accordance with claim 1, wherein said [carrier] carrying belt comprises a wire belt.

19. (Amended) The machine in accordance with claim 1, wherein said [carrier] carrying belt comprises a dewatering belt.

20. (Amended) The machine in accordance with claim 1, wherein said [carrier] carrying belt comprises an imprinting member.

21. (Amended) The machine in accordance with claim 1, further comprising [an additional] a continuous felt belt which is arranged between said carrying belt and said shoe press unit and which is guided through said elongated pressing nip along with the fibrous material web and said carrying belt.

22. (Amended) The machine in accordance with claim 1, wherein said [one] shoe press unit comprises a water-impermeable continuous, circulating press belt.

25. (Amended) A process for producing a fibrous material web in an apparatus including a water-permeable continuous carrying belt, at least one shoe press having an elongated pressing nip formed between a drying cylinder and a shoe press unit, at least one suctioned apparatus, which includes a hood, arranged before the at least one shoe press unit relative to a web travel direction, and [a] said carrying belt being guided from a forming roll and then over the at least one suctioned apparatus, wherein the at least one suctioned apparatus comprises a suction roll and wherein the hood at least partially surrounds the suction roll, said process comprising:

guiding the fibrous material web and the carrying belt through the elongated pressing nip; and

supporting an underpressure effect of the at least one suctioned apparatus by creating an overpressure in the hood.

27. (Amended) The process in accordance with claim 25, wherein, as the carrying belt guides the fibrous material web over the at least one suctioned apparatus, the carrying belt

is positioned between the at least one suctioned apparatus and the fibrous material web.

30. (Amended) The process in accordance with claim 25, wherein the apparatus further includes a suction element positioned between the at least one suctioned apparatus and the at least one shoe press, and the process further comprises suctioning the carrying belt and fibrous material web guided over the suction element.

31. (Amended) The process in accordance with claim [25] 30, wherein said suction element comprises a suction box.

36. (Amended) The process in accordance with claim 25, wherein the apparatus further includes [a forming roll with] a continuous [continuously] outer wire, and the carrying belt is guided over the forming roll as an inner wire between the continuous outer wire and the forming roll, and the process further includes supplying a fibrous material suspension between the inner wire and the outer wire.

41. (Amended) The process in accordance with claim 25, wherein said [carrier] carrying belt comprises a felt belt.

42. (Amended) The process in accordance with claim 25, wherein said [carrier] carrying belt comprises a wire belt.

43. (Amended) The process in accordance with claim 25, wherein said [carrier] carrying belt comprises a dewatering belt.

44. (Amended) The process in accordance with claim 25, wherein said [carrier]



carrying belt comprises an imprinting member.

45. (Amended) The process in accordance with claim 25, wherein the apparatus includes [an additional] a continuous felt belt arranged between the carrying belt and the shoe press unit in the elongated pressing nip, and the process further includes guiding the fibrous material web through the elongated pressing nip along with the carrying belt and the [additional] continuous felt belt.

49. (Amended) An apparatus for producing a fibrous material web comprising:  
at least one shoe press including at least one drying cylinder and a shoe press unit which are arranged to form a pressing nip elongated in a web travel direction;

at least one suctioned apparatus arranged before said at least one shoe press relative to the web travel direction; [and]

a water-permeable continuous carrying belt arranged to guide the fibrous material web from a forming roll over said at least one suctioned apparatus and through said pressing nip; and

an overpressure device associated with said at least one suctioned apparatus arranged to support an underpressure effect of said at least one suctioned apparatus,

wherein the at least one suctioned apparatus comprises a suction roll and wherein the overpressure device comprises a hood subjected to an overpressure, the hood being arranged to surround at least a portion of the suction roll.

51. (Amended) The apparatus in accordance with claim 49, wherein said overpressure device comprises an overpressure fluid comprising at least one of overheated steam, [and] dry air and [and/or] moist hot air.

52. (Amended) A process for producing a fibrous material web in an apparatus that includes at least one shoe press having at least one drying cylinder and a shoe press unit which are arranged to form a pressing nip elongated in a web travel direction, at least one suctioned apparatus arranged before the at least one shoe press relative to the web travel direction, and an overpressure device associated with the at least one suctioned apparatus, wherein the at least one suctioned apparatus comprises a suction roll and wherein the overpressure device comprises a hood subjected to an overpressure, the hood being arranged to surround at least a portion of the suction roll, the process comprising:

guiding the fibrous material web from a forming roll and over the at least one suctioned apparatus; and

subjecting the fibrous material web to an overpressure while is it guided over the at least one suctioned apparatus.